



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 15.1.3**

**Halifax Regional Council  
February 11, 2020**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Original Signed by   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** January 23, 2020

**SUBJECT:** **Splash Pad Proposal – Friends of the Dartmouth Splashpad + Park**

---

**ORIGIN**

April 7, 2018, Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council motion:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Karsten  
THAT Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council refer the presentation from Dartmouth Splash Pad and Park for a staff report and return to Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council by June 30, 2018. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

June 7, 2018 Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council motion:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Karsten  
That Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council recommend that the Friends of the Dartmouth Splashpad + Park submit their splash pad proposal to staff for review and recommendation to Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

January 29, 2019 Regional Council motion:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Karsten  
THAT Halifax Regional Council: 1. Direct staff to complete a technical analysis of the Dartmouth Commons site (skate board park, recreation area) to determine the suitability of the location for a Regional Splash Pad as per the preliminary analysis and, if necessary, investigate alternative location(s); and 2. Direct staff to work with the Dartmouth Splash Pad Community group to assist with the securing of funding for the project. 3. Direct staff to provide cost estimates for the project, which would include a clarification on the HRM portion, and the ongoing operating costs. AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

**RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 2**

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*

79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if  
(a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Proceed with the Dartmouth Splash Pad at the Dartmouth Commons site, pending the provision of full funding as per the Financial Implications section of this report; and
2. Continue to work with the Friends of the Dartmouth Splash Pad + Park community group to secure the funding for the project.

**BACKGROUND**

In April 2018, the Friends of the Dartmouth Splash Pad + Park (FDSP) made an unsolicited presentation to the Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) for a splash pad to be located at Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park. In June 2018, HEMDCC recommended that FDSP submit their proposal to staff for review and recommendation to HEMDCC.

HRM currently has six splash pads which are located at: the Halifax Central Common; George Dixon Recreation Centre; Isleville Street Playground; Westmount Playground; Bayer's Westwood Playground; and Sackville Kinsmen Park. The concentration of splash pads on the peninsula of Halifax is due to the fact that there is no supervised beach provision in that area. There are no splash pads currently located in Dartmouth or surrounding areas.

The FDSP is a community led initiative for a regional splash pad project in Dartmouth. The FDSP has established a relationship with the Kiwanis Club of Dartmouth (KCD), which will assist in the fund raising in support of this project. The community group originally proposed that this project be considered as part of Halifax Regional Council's 2019/2020 capital funding allocations with the goal to have the splash pad operational for the summer of 2020. This proposal is not currently identified in the 3-year Capital Budget but Council has initially included some funding in the "parking lot" for potential consideration.

The community group proposal indicates fundraising of \$150,000 towards the total overall cost of the project.

In January 2019, staff presented a report to HEMDCC regarding the proposal and assessment of potential sites. Regional Council subsequently directed staff to complete a technical analysis of the Dartmouth Commons site (skate board park, recreation area) to determine the suitability of the location for a Regional Splash Pad as per the preliminary analysis and, if necessary, investigate alternative location(s); and for staff to work with the Dartmouth Splash Pad Community group to assist with the securing of funding for the project.

The community group proposed a splash pad that would serve as a regional size facility for all residents of the Halifax region with a focus on the communities within Harbour East – Marine Drive area. A regional splash pad would be in the 3200-square foot range (80' x 50' in oval shape) with strategically spaced spray features and zones for children of all ages. The regional splash pad would be able to

accommodate 125 to 135 users at once, with additional users in dry areas surrounding the splash pad and park.

In 2014, HRM partnered with the Kinsmen Club of Sackville on a community led initiative for the development of a splash pad in Sackville. The total cost of the project was \$501,000, which included: \$92,000 in fundraising; \$25,000 donated by the Kinsman Club of Sackville; \$50,000 in donated material; \$167,000 in Provincial funding; and \$167,000 in municipal funding.

There are also operating costs associated with splash pads that would need to be absorbed by the Municipality. Depending on the design of the splash pad, the annual operating costs for a community type facility can run in the range of \$25,000 to \$100,000.

On May 14, 2019 Halifax Regional Council approved the Municipality's Long-term Aquatic Strategy. The purpose of the Long-term Aquatic Strategy is to provide a broad-based overview of the entire aquatic service delivery system and identify gaps, opportunities and priorities, while providing strategic approaches and actions to inform facility planning over a 15-year timeframe. Dartmouth was identified as one of the short-term priorities for a splash pad.

Regional Council has also requested a staff report on aquatics in District 4 (lifeguarded beach/splash pad). That report is also included on this meeting's agenda.

## **DISCUSSION**

As directed by Regional Council, the staff have undertaken a feasibility review for a new splash pad at the Dartmouth Common site. HRM retained WSP Canada Inc. to perform the technical analysis for the proposed splash pad.

### **Technical Analysis of the Dartmouth Commons site (skateboard park and recreation area)**

The current design review uses information provided by the FDSP in the Splash Pad proposal, dated July 5, 2018, and as recommended in the January 2019 staff report. To support the development of a conceptual site design, WSP Canada Inc. completed a topographic survey, geotechnical investigation and a service review of the proposed site. A Boundary Analysis was also performed, resulting in the property boundary line shown on the drawing (Attachment 1). An analysis was also conducted on various design aspects associated with construction and installation of the proposed splash pad, such as: driveway access, pedestrian access, water and sewer lateral connections, electrical services, lights, washroom options and site amenities. The technical analysis confirmed the suitability of the site, therefore alternate locations were not assessed at this time.

This information was used to develop a preliminary proposed splash pad layout drawing. As part of the conceptual design review, splash pad system options were considered, including a recirculating and a repurposing / flow-through type design.

The site is an existing HRM Park, located between Wyse Road and Windmill Road. The site has existing recreational amenities, including a tennis court, basketball courts, skatepark, playground, swings and a beach volleyball court.

Based on the configuration of existing infrastructure, it is recommended that the north-west section of the park is the preferred location for the proposed splash pad infrastructure. Following review of the site topography, it was determined that the existing beach volleyball court area, which is no longer used, would be a suitable location for the splash pad system to minimize grading and disturbance and provide a set back from surrounding streets (Attachment 1). There are beach volleyball courts at Harbour East, that meet the community needs.

Based on a review of the site layout and servicing options, and discussions with HRM staff, the flow-through splash pad option at the Dartmouth Commons site was recommended. This option requires less maintenance, less expensive capital costs and requires less space overall. This option also allows for the addition of a grey-water repurposing feature to the system to provide a green alternative option without significantly increased treatment and operation requirements. The grey-water system would allow for the discharge water to be collected in an underground tank and re-used rather than exiting into the sewer system (except when the tank overflows). The grey-water could be used to water gardens/planters.

Friends of the Dartmouth Splash Pad + Park Fundraising Update

To date, the FDSP has secured \$45,000 plus an additional \$30,000 pending location confirmation and HRM support for a conditional total of \$75,000. FDSP has a multi-channel marketing strategy with two goals: To bring back play, to engage and educate Harbour East/HRM citizens in the need for aquatic play and to mobilize the community in support of the HRM Aquatic Strategy, and to solicit financial support from corporate, private citizens, organizations, grants and public sector to support a Dartmouth splash pad. The volunteers launched a corporate fundraising and community mobilization campaign with the following initiatives to support the above goals: web site, print, video, media (YouTube, radio, press release, TV), social media engagement and marketing, letter writing campaign for support to private corporations, grants applications and has initiated a discussion with HRM staff to investigate naming rights. The FDSP's goal is to raise \$150,000 through the above strategies. However, it is thought that the additional funds could provide support for splash pad enhancements (additional play elements) and the non-core components of the project; such as: benches, shade structure, picnic tables, bike racks and other optional, nice to have, but not required considerations. HRM's contribution with the government grants and/or naming rights would be for core infrastructure.

Cost Estimates for the Dartmouth Splash Pad Project – WSP Canada Inc.

<b>ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS</b>	
<b>Flow Through System (excludes a public washroom building)</b>	
Splash pad and amenities	\$300,000
Water and sanitary systems	\$82,000
Earthworks/Siteworks	\$55,000
Landscaping	\$50,000
Electrical	\$53,000
Total	\$540,000
Contingency (20%)	\$110,000
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>

<b>ESTIMATED REVENUE</b>	
Friends of the Dartmouth Splash Pad Includes: fundraising, grants, community/corporate sponsorship, resident contributions. In addition to funding a portion of the splash pad features, this fundraising will be used to fund the extra amenities, i.e. sunshades, benches, extra water features etc.	\$150,000
Halifax Regional Municipality	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>
<b>Annual Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

The estimated revenue is expected to be realized through fundraising by the FDSP and future HRM capital budgets. As noted, Regional Council has preliminarily allocated \$500,000 through current capital budget deliberations for consideration in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This project is not currently included in the current 3-year Capital Budget. The required funds would have to be approved as part of a future Capital Budget process and currently, proposed funding is being considered in year 4–10 Capital Budgets. However, as noted, Regional Council has preliminarily allocated funding for consideration in the parking lot of the current capital budget deliberation. There are considerable pressures on the Capital Budget and with respect to park projects; the primary focus continues to be on state of good repair of existing assets. With limited funds available for the Capital Budget, this project would be prioritized against overall HRM capital projects.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no extraordinary risks associated with this report. The risks rate moderate.

Given the recommendations from the consultants, the primary risks would be around the funding of the project and the availability of washrooms. If resources are limited, adjustments could be made to the initial Dartmouth Splash Pad plan by reducing the number of amenities, and/or construct a smaller splash pad. Regarding washrooms, permanent washrooms are not proposed, and porta potties will be placed at the site.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community engagement is being led by the Friends of the Dartmouth Splashpad + Park.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications on the recommended site, however, consideration will be given to the type of operating system and the impacts on water consumption and chemicals.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Regional Council could choose to:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to not proceed with a Dartmouth splash pad project at this time.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with the construction of the Dartmouth Splash pad at an alternative location. This would require additional analysis and subsequent report to council.

### **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1: Dartmouth Commons General Layout Drawing – WSP Canada Inc.

---

A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Angela Green, Manager of Recreation Programming 902.490.3883

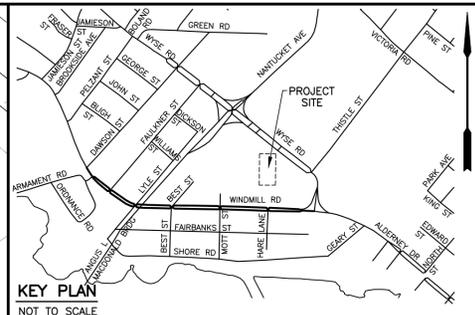
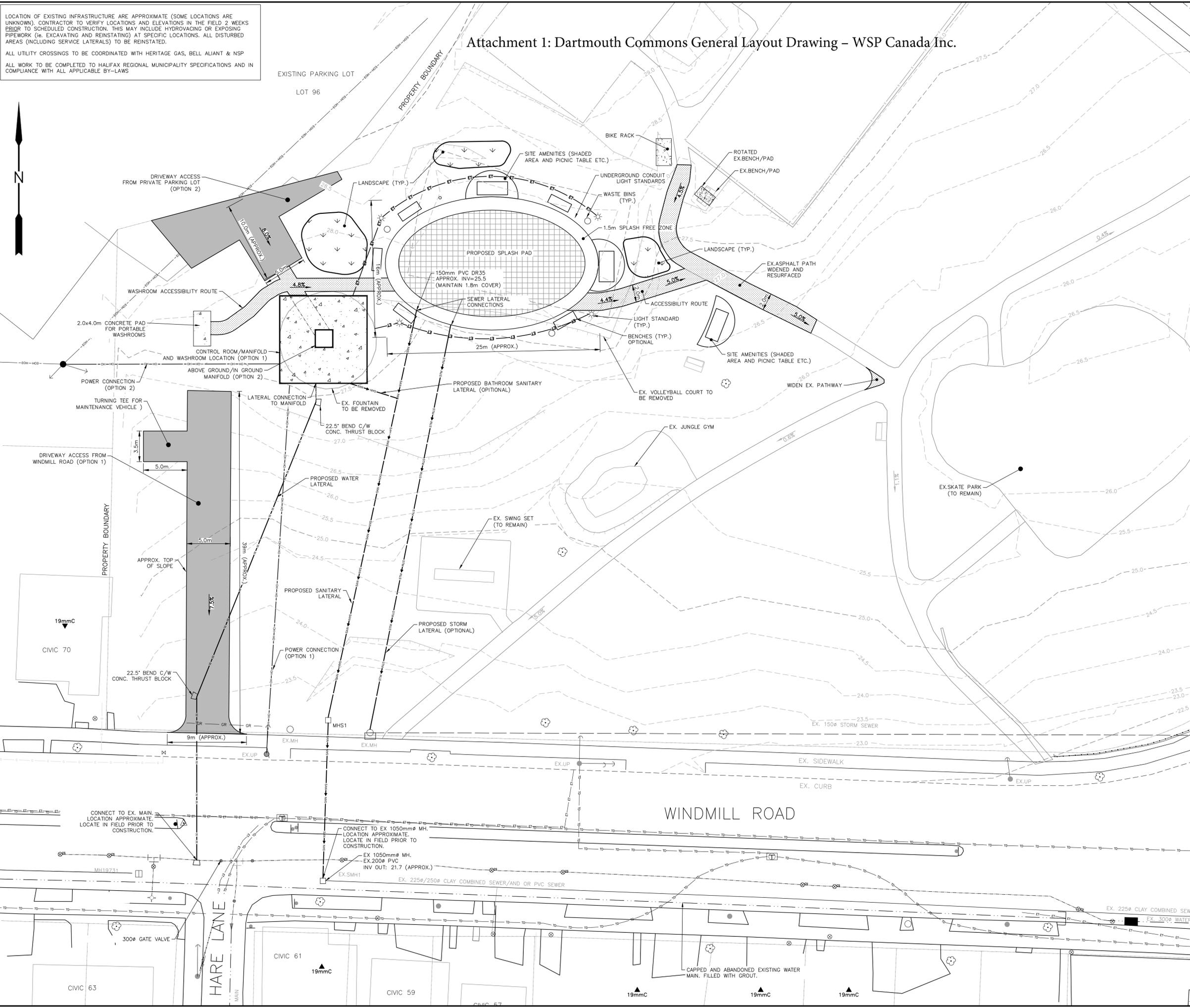
Report Approved by: Original Signed  
Denise Schofield, Director of Parks & Recreation, 902.490.6252

---

LOCATION OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE ARE APPROXIMATE (SOME LOCATIONS ARE UNKNOWN). CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS IN THE FIELD 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CONSTRUCTION. THIS MAY INCLUDE HYDROVACUING OR EXPOSING PIPEWORK (i.e. EXCAVATING AND REINSTATING) AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS. ALL DISTURBED AREAS (INCLUDING SERVICE LATERALS) TO BE REINSTATED.

ALL UTILITY CROSSINGS TO BE COORDINATED WITH HERITAGE GAS, BELL ALJANT & NSP  
 ALL WORK TO BE COMPLETED TO HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY SPECIFICATIONS AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE BY-LAWS

### Attachment 1: Dartmouth Commons General Layout Drawing – WSP Canada Inc.



EXISTING	PLAN LEGEND	PROPOSED
▲ PT NO	SURVEY CONTROL MARKER	○
●	FIRE HYDRANT	⊕
○	UTILITY POLE AND GUY WIRE	⊕
⊕	TRAFFIC STREET LIGHT	⊕
⊕	SIGN POST/BASE	⊕
— X — X —	FENCE	— X — X —
— RW — RW —	RETAINING WALL	— RW — RW —
—	CONCRETE CURB	—
—	STREET LINE	—
— C —	COMBINED MANHOLE & PIPE	— C —
— S —	SANITARY MANHOLE & PIPE	— S —
— ST —	STORM MANHOLE & PIPE	— ST —
— C —	CATCHBASIN	— C —
— G —	GAS MAIN	— G —
—	CONCRETE SURFACE	—
—	ASPHALT SURFACE	—
—	EDGE OF GRAVEL SURFACE	—
—	WATERMAIN	—
○	TREE	○
○	PEDESTRIAN RAMP	○
○	CONTROLLER BOX	○
○	TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLE	○
○	JUNCTION BOX	○
○	RADAR SYSTEM	○
○	TRAFFIC SIGNAL HEAD	○
○	PEDESTRIAN HEAD	○
— TL —	TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONDUIT	— TL —
— ET —	ELECTRICAL CONDUIT	— ET —
— SL —	STREET LIGHT CONDUIT	— SL —
— TD —	TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONDUIT	— TD —
— H —	HEDGE	— H —

- NOTES**
1. PLAN VALUES ARE BASED ON THE NOVA SCOTIA COORDINATE REFERENCING SYSTEM.
  2. ALL WORK IS TO BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HRM CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.
  3. GRADES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE. FINISHED GRADE IS TO BE APPROVED IN THE FIELD BY THE ENGINEER.
  4. UTILITY INFORMATION IS APPROXIMATE ONLY. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR ON SITE LOCATES WITH ALL UTILITIES PRIOR TO START OF WORK. CONTACT [www.info-ex.com](http://www.info-ex.com) AND OTHERS AS REQUIRED.
  5. CONTRACTOR TO OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY PERMITS REQUIRED TO PERFORM WORK AND TO COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.
  6. WHERE EXISTING CONDITIONS ARE SHOWN THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATE OR COMPLETE. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CONFIRM ALL EXISTING DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS AND REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES TO THE ENGINEER.
  7. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CHECK AND VERIFY ALL PROPOSED DIMENSIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH CONSTRUCTION. ANY ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE BY THE ENGINEER AS NECESSARY.
  8. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING GRADES AND LAYOUT CONTROL.
  9. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION OF TREES. TREES ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE ENGINEER.
  10. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION OF TREES. TREES ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE ENGINEER.
  11. WORK IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF A NOVA SCOTIA COORDINATE MONUMENT MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY HAND. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS IF MONUMENTS ARE DISTURBED.
  12. AT COMPLETION OF WORK REINSTATE ALL DISTURBED SURFACES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ENGINEER.
  13. WATER VALVE BOX EXTENSIONS - THE MINIMUM INSIDE DIAMETER OF A VALVE BOX EXTENSION SHALL BE 125 mm AND THE MINIMUM LENGTH OF A VALVE BOX EXTENSION SHALL BE 300 mm. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM APPROPRIATE PRODUCT TO BE USED WITH HALIFAX WATER OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF.
  14. ALL NEW PEDESTRIAN RAMPS TO INCLUDE TACTILE WALKING SURFACE INDICATOR PLATES AS PER HRM DETAIL 1.31 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

No.	Date	Revision	Description	App'd
4				
3				
2				
1	SEPT/18/19	RE-ISSUED FOR REVIEW		
0	SEPT/06/19	DRAFT FOR REVIEW		

**CONCEPT ONLY  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION**

WSP Canada Inc.  
 1 Spectacle Lake Drive  
 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B3B 1X7  
 T 902-835-9955 F 902-835-1645 [www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)

# HALIFAX

## DARTMOUTH SPLASH PAD DARTMOUTH, NS

### GENERAL LAYOUT

Date	2019/09/18	Drawn	ET	Tender No.	
Scale	Horz. 1:200 Vert. 1:200	Survey No.			19-xxx
Reference	DATUM HORZ: NAD83(CSRS) EPOCH 2010.0 3' MTM PROJECTION ZONE 5 VERT: CGVD2013				Sheet 2 Of 2
Checked					Drawing No. 19-xxx